AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1(Currently Amended). A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes ~~with~~ to a sequence between nucleobases 771 to 843 or nucleobases 1011 to 5040 of SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase~~ and inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase.

2(Original). The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3(CANCELED).

4(Original). The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5(Original). The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6(Original). The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7(Original). The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

8(Original). The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9(Original). The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10(Original). The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11(Currently Amended). A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase ~~portion of~~ sequence within nucleobase 771 to 843 or nucleobases 1011 to 5040 of ~~an active site on~~ a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3) and which inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10% in a suitable assay.

12(Original). A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13(Original). The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14(Original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15(Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues *in vitro* with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase is inhibited.

Claims 16-20 (CANCELED).

21(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence within nucleobases 771 to 843 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

22(New). The compound according to claim 21, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence within nucleobases 824 to 843 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

23(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence within nucleobases 1011 to 5040 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

24(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said inhibition is at least 22%.

25(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said inhibition is at least 30%.

26(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said inhibition is at least 49%.